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New Buffalo Times

NEWS $1

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WINTER HOOPS...

RAIDERS REBOUND FROM LOSSES IN BLOWOUT VICTORY AT HOME

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Get local help with your Medicare questions

I'm Marcie Ritter, a licensed sales agent in Southwest Michigan/Northern Indiana. When it comes to Medicare, it's important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I'm ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs. **Make the most of my knowledge and experience to:**

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INDOOR COMMUNITY MARKETS TO CONTINUE THROUGH APRIL

The Community Market will return to the New Troy Community Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10.

This month's market will feature local makers, crafters, and merchants selling farm-to-market foods and personal care products, ceramics, antiques, collectibles, fiber crafts, woodwork, candles, and custom mugs and tumblers.

Lunch will be cooked and served by community center volunteers as a fundraiser for a much-needed new roof. January's menu includes split peas and bacon soup, plus a vegetarian soup and soft drinks.

Up to 14 paid-forward bowls of soup will be available for anyone who could use a complimentary hot meal.

The History Room, Activities Room, and Little Free Pantry will also be open, giving visitors a chance to explore more of the Community's Center's offerings.

Markets will continue the second Saturday of every month, through April.

The New Troy Community Center is funded by memberships, donations, and fundraising events — but no tax dollars. Located at 13372 California Road in New Troy, Michigan, it is owned, operated, and maintained by volunteer members of Friends of New Troy, a non-profit 501(c)3. — STAFF REPORTS

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

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Berrien County Health Department providing free radon testing kits during Radon Action Month

In recognition of Radon Action Month, the Berrien County Health Department is encouraging all residents to test their homes for radon by offering free radon testing kits and raising awareness about the health risks of long-term exposure to radon.

Radon is an odorless, invisible radioactive gas that is estimated to exist in elevated levels in 1 in 4 homes across the state, according to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. It is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after smoking and can be found in any home – whether it's owner-occupied or rented.

Radon comes from the natural decay of uranium that is found in nearly all soils and can move up through the ground into the air and enter homes through cracks in the foundation. There are no short-term side effects or a distinctive color, smell or taste to alert individuals of elevated radon levels in their home. Testing is the only way to determine if radon levels are at an actionable level.

"The only way to know if radon is present in a home is through testing," said Nick Margaritis, BCHD's manager of environmental health services. "By offering free radon testing kits and providing education about the health risks of radon, the Berrien County Health Department is helping residents take a simple but important step in safeguarding their health."

Throughout January, BCHD is offering free radon testing kits, which can normally cost between $10 and $200, to community members while supplies last.

Testing kits may be picked up at BCHD's offices in Benton Harbor, 2149 E. Napier Ave., and Niles, 1205 N. Front St., during business hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday. Homeowners and renters will receive one kit per household.

Residents are encouraged to test for radon every two years since new cracks can form in the home's foundation and increase the levels of radon. Elevated radon levels have been found in all 83 Michigan counties.

Residents renting an apartment or home should also test for radon levels since state law does not require rental property owners to test for radon.

If a radon test shows elevated levels, residents are encouraged to install a radon mitigation system or request that the rental property owner install one.

Learn more about radon testing and find resources at Michigan.gov/Radon. Community members who have questions about radon testing kits offered through BCHD may call 269.927.5623. — STAFF REPORTS

SNOWMOBILE TRESPASSING IN FIELD LEADS TO FELONY CHARGE

A La Porte area man could receive time behind bars for driving across a farmer's field on a snowmobile.

Brett Schuler is charged in La Porte Circuit Court with Level 6 felony criminal mischief.

Authorities said he caused roughly $2,000 in damage to unharvested soybeans still in the field he cut across on Nov. 11 in the area of Indiana 2 and 600 East.

According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Schuler told conservation officers he and a friend were riding their snowmobiles when his friend's snowmobile broke down.

Schuler said he was heading back to a truck and trailer he parked when he decided to cut across the field on his snowmobile out of convenience, DNR stated.

According to Indiana law, misdemeanor trespassing in a farm field can be upgraded to a felony under certain conditions such as property damage ranging from $750 to $50,000.

Schuler could face anywhere from a six month to 30-month sentence. — STAN MADDUX

Reason lives forever; Reason is the language of the soul, nature, and His Holiness. The Greek philosopher Socrates is the first person known to man to practice reasoning in every thought. *— Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

New royalty to be crowned this weekend

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

New royalty will be crowned this Saturday, Jan. 10, at pageants in New Buffalo and Three Oaks.

Three Oaks

The Three Oaks/River Valley Queens Committee is excited to announce the crowning of the 2026 Three Oaks/ River Valley courts at 1 p.m. at the River Valley Middle/High School Auditorium. Tickets are available pre-purchase through the committee or contestants or at the door for $20.

"The participants this year as in every year are having fun, gaining more self-confidence, and are doing great in perfecting their communication skills," Chairman Brittney Sherrill said. "I'm so excited to continue the legacy of this scholarship program with a 2026 royalty."

The program will include the Miss and Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley program as well as a Little Miss and Little Mr. program. All these royalties will be crowned at the end of the program. Throughout the year, the royalty will be present in the community events.

"We are so excited to be crowing our new royalty," said Co-Chairman Sandra Keen. "We've been blessed with amazing contestants again this year and it is exciting to see who will be representing our community at Miss and Mr. Blossomtime this spring."

Three Oaks/River Valley Pageants is a scholarship organization, not "just" a beauty pageant, which is here to raise funds to provide scholarships and strive to raise awareness of the importance of community involvement. Contestants are provided with a workshop to improve their interview skills, their ability to speak, and to develop a defined confidence level. Most importantly, it strives to instill the value of mentorship, leadership, and service in the lives of young men and women who participate in the pageant. All pageant participants will have an opportunity to make an impact, leave a mark, persuade a heart, and give back to their community. The committee members commit to continuing year after year to provide these opportunities to the young women and young men within our community.

New Buffalo

The Miss/Mr. New Buffalo Scholarship Program will be holdings its "An Evening in Dublin, Ireland"- themed pageant at 4 p.m. at the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center, located at 1112 East Clay St. in New Buffalo. Tickets are $20 cash only. New Buffalo students are $10 with current school ID present.

Co-chair Danielle Garrison Rose said that she and chair Katie Garrison have welcomed 21 children to compete for the following titles: Little Miss and Mr., Jr. Teen Miss and Mr., Teen Miss and Miss and Mr. New Buffalo.

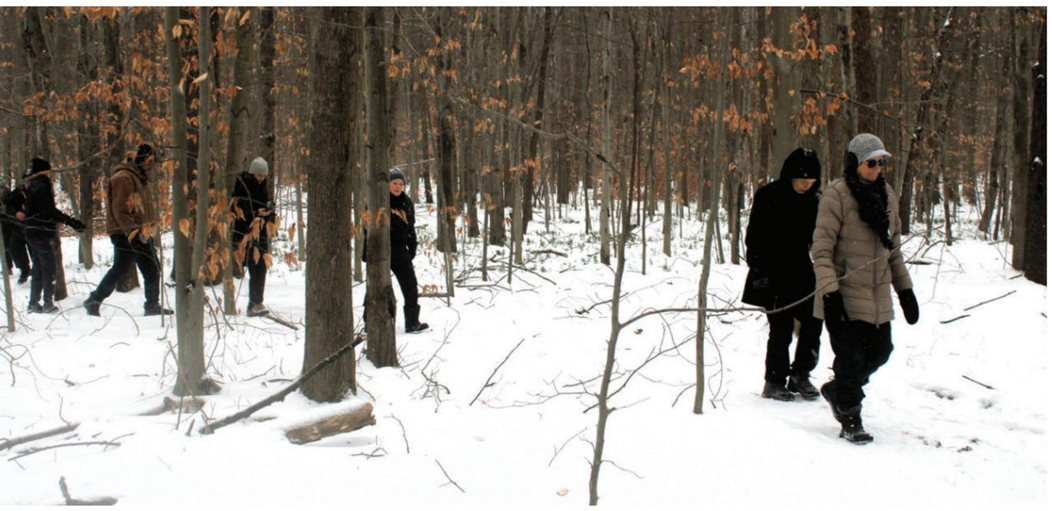
"We're motivated to have fun here and everyone to have a positive experience," Garrison Rose said.

A resident of New Buffalo for 25 years who now resides in Bridgman with her husband and three children, Garrison Rose was 2007 Miss New Buffalo. Her twin brother was crowned Mr. New Buffalo that year, the first Mr. New Buffalo.

"I just gained so much confidence in stage presence and interview skills that guide me through my entire life - so I just really wanted to help these kids realize that confidence and skills, too," she said.

Katie Garrison is a resident of New Buffalo, where she and her husband run a thriving real estate business, and mother of three children who attend the school district. Her daughter, Quinn, had a positive experience as 2025 Little Miss New Buffalo.

The most dangerous person is the one who listens, thinks and observes.
— Bruce Lee



Hikers traverse Robinson Woods

Hikers pass a stream at Robinson Woods

A rogue Winnie the Pooh hibernates in Robinson Woods

Pat Fisher describes the nature at Robinson Woods

Indulging in a winter wonderland at 'First Day Hike'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Nature takes on a different look in the winter than it does in the warm weather months, Pat Fisher said.

"This is gorgeous with the white snow - you can see through the trees in the winter instead of being a wall of green, so you get to see some of the landscape this time of year," he said.

Fisher, who's president of Harbor Country Hikers, and a group of hikers started the new year off on the right foot by embarking on a "First Day Hike" at Flynn Woods and Robinson Woods preserves on East Road in Three Oaks Thursday, Jan. 1.

According to the American Hiking Society, First Day Hikes are part of a nationwide initiative led by America's State Parks to encourage everyone to get outdoors. Hundreds of free, guided hikes are organized in all 50 states on New Year's Day.

Patrick Flynn, the former supervisor for the Blue Hills Reservation, a state park in Milton, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston led 380 people on the inaugural First Day Hikes at the reservation, complete with hot soup, Jan. 1, 1992.

Fisher said that he "decided people use the parks in the summer and they never get used at all in the winter."

"So, he thought, 'I should create something,'" Fisher said.

The hikes were done for several years in Massachusetts until it was suggested that other states join in, which occurred in 2012. In 2016, the National Park Service joined in.

According to COL's website, William and Jean Robinson bought the land now known as Robinson Woods in the 1960s and donated the southern 65 acres to The Nature Conservancy in 1968. In 1973, the remaining northern 15 acres were donated. In 2009, The Nature Conservancy transferred the property to Chikaming Open Lands (COL).

"This was and still is their (COL) premier place - a lot of people come here to hike, it's really flat and you'll see toward the back it gets really gorgeous," Fisher said.

A house sits on a hill. Further into the woods, the foundation where the Robinsons had their cabin remains.

"Otherwise, it's just a natural area – lot of animals use it, and a lot of people use it," he said.

Per the website, the property includes seasonal streams and a county drain, which eventually drain into Cherry Creek, which has a ravine that sits at the northern edge of the property. The preserve is replete with several wetland areas, which support a variety of plants and wildlife.

After traversing Robinson Woods, the group crossed over to Flynn, which is across the road.

The Flynn Woods Preserve property was purchased by COL in 2014, with funding from the Susan Flynn family and a combination of private contributions grant funding from The Pokagon Fund.

The John Morley Drain, which divides the property, connects to Cherry Creek, a direct tributary to Lake Michigan. The property includes a mix of oak-hickory and wetland forests which, together with Robinson Woods, creates a 115-acre protected area.

Doug Morris, who works with COL as a volunteer steward of Jens Jensen Preserve and helps lead multiple wildlife surveys with them, said that multiple plots are set up at three different COL preserves that are made up of 50 boards each that are set up in a grid.

Recently, two new plots were installed back in Robinson Woods.

"They are about a foot by foot and so they simulate a downed log so they're a home environment for salamanders," he said.

He said they survey the most common salamander, the Red-backed salamander, which goes from New England to the Carolinas to Minnesota.

"The reason we use a very common one is the data is profuse – there's lots and lots of data so you can measure population trends, measuring the healthy environment, climate change is a big part of it to see how they're changing according to climate change," he said.

He added that they "count and measure and determine the gender of all the red backed ones," with everything being reported back to a national database, which uses the data.

Robinsons Woods is also the site of gatherings for COL's Mighty Acorns program, which is comprised of third, fourth and fifth graders in the River Valley, Bridgman and New Buffalo school districts who meet at different COL's preserves to "do games, do stewardship and some exploration," Fisher said. Last fall, Mighty Acorn launched a Homeschool Mighty Acorns.

Andy Sydow and Susan Dietrich-Reed

Dubantes

Sadie Gustafson-Zook, Kylee Phillips and Emily Barnes

The Acorn presents Acorn Anywhere

A WINTER SERIES

The Acorn proudly presents Acorn Anywhere: A Winter Series – bringing original artistry to three unique stages in a celebration of connection through live music and community.

Debutants will be at Commune + Market at 105 North Elm St. in Three Oaks at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24.

"Indiana Newgrass" string band the Debutants have evolved from a duo between longtime friends, Lynn Nicholson and Jon Swain, into a formidable seven-piece string band with a string section (two fiddles and a cello). A high-energy string band with eclectic influences, Debutants dance between songs and styles of old and new and dazzles with impressive musicianship, earnest songwriting and dynamic live performances.

Located in the heart of Three Oaks, Commune-Market is a vibrant hub for events, art and community connection.

Songwriters-in-the-Round, which will feature Sadie Gustafson-Zook, Kylee Phillips and Emily Barnes, will be at Vickers Theatre, 6 North Elm St. in Three Oaks, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31.

Three Acorn Singer-Songwriter Competition alumni – Sadie Gustafson-Zook (2024 Winner),

Kylee Phillips (2025 Winner), and Emily Barnes (2024 Finalist) – will come together for an intimate songwriter showcase. Each artist will take turns performing their original songs and sharing the stories behind them.

Sadie's songs have been endorsed by some of the most respected songwriting contests in the country, winning Kerrville Folk Festival's 2022 New Folk Contest (as well as placing as a finalist in 2020), earning second place at the Rocky Mountain Folk Fest's Songwriter Showcase, and winning first place at the NewSong + LEAF Songwriting Contest and the 2024 Acorn Singer-Songwriter Competition.

Kylee Phillips is a Michigan-native vocalist, pianist, and songwriter of deeply self-exposing pop music. She has garnered cult-like acclaim in the Midwest and beyond since her explosive debut EP, "Long Time Coming." She was named the winner of the 2025 Acorn Singer-Songwriter Competition and has her first full-length album due out in 2026.

Emily Barnes is a contemporary folk singer/songwriter whose music breathes life into the characters and stories of everyday people. A recognized talent in the songwriting community, Emily was the winner of the 2025 Hey Nonny competition, and has been a finalist in several major festivals, including the Kerrville Folk Festival, Red Lodge Songwriters Festival, Blast on the Bay, and The Acorn Singer-Songwriter Competition.

A classic art house and cinema, Vickers Theatre exists to open minds, enrich lives and entertain spirits.

Andy Sydow and Citadel Music Center will present orchestral arrangements: Measure 1 and other songs at GhostLight Theatre, located at 101 Hinkley Street in Benton Harbor, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

Sydow is a singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and storyteller whose music blends Americana, folk, and roots rock. In 2023, Sydow released "Measure 1: Orchestral Arrangements by Andy Sydow," a six-song EP of reimagined original works plus a Pearl Jam cover. Over more than a decade of touring and recording, Sydow has released multiple albums and singles, earned Triple-A and AMA radio airplay, twice been a finalist in the prestigious Kerrville New Folk Songwriter Competition, and was the runner-up in the 2024 Acorn Singer-Songwriter Competition.

An innovative theater in the Benton Harbor Arts District, The GhostLight Theatre is a collaboration of local performing artists, businesspeople, arts supporters, and enthusiastic audience members.

The Citadel Faculty Ensemble as featured for this performance includes Susan Dietrich-Reed, executive director and director of music for The Citadel, along with other Citadel faculty members.

Susan was a cellist with the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra for over 40 years and now subs with SMSO as well as the Laporte County Indiana Symphony. She is also cellist/leader of the Renaissance Strings, Artist in Residence with the St. Joseph Schools, Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra sectional coach and maintains a cello studio at the Citadel. Susan serves as an adjudicator for Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association and has served as a clinician for MASTA (Michigan American String Teachers Assoc).

A student quartet will also be featured.

Located in the Benton Harbor Arts District, Citadel Dance & Music Center provides dance and music instruction to over 300 students of all ages year-round. Financial aid is provided to any student wanting to study dance or music that otherwise would not be able to.

Doors open for all shows at 7 p.m. For tickets and more information, visit www.acornlive.org. — STAFF REPORTS

TOWN HALL MEETING

Topics of Discussion:
Crime, Cars and Cannabis

January 27, 2026

STARTS AT 6pm

"We want to hear what you think!" Lt Thad Chartrand of the Berrien County Sheriffs Office invites all community members to attend a townhall meeting to share input on hot topics in and around New Buffalo Township. Members of the New Buffalo Township board along with Code Enforcement will be in attendance to address your questions and concerns. "Your perspectives, questions, comments and feedback are vital in allowing us to have an open conversation. For more information, Call 269-469-1011

Where: New Buffalo Township Hall

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From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The 2025 NFL regular season ended today and it was a great one.

Perennial powerhouse's failed to make the playoffs, and some traditional doormats made huge improvement's and are playoff participants. The NFL conducts business so much better than the other major sports leagues.

The last game of the season had a lot of interest in many cities throughout the league. Fourteen teams, actually 15, had extreme interest in the outcome of the games on the last day of the season.

Baseball, my other favorite sport, has one team battling to participate in the playoffs, much less often. I couldn't find how often, but it feels like once a decade is too often. One of the reasons for the intense interest is that fans get to watch their team every week.

Baseball, for some strange reason (probably greed) tries to get their fans to pay extra for the opportunity to watch their games. Then, to top it all off, they blackout the local teams games.

We in Chicago know what happens when you're not allowed to see your team on a regular basis. The Cubs became Chicago's team because the White Sox put their games on pay television and kids turned to their other option, the Cubs.

In hockey, the Blackhawks lost much of their fan base because the owner didn't want to put his teams games on tv. When he passed away, his son immediately changed that policy, and the Blackhawks became relevant again.

After years of frustration, the Bears put it all together this season. The owners told the general manager to hire the best coach he could find, no matter the cost.

The coach was told to hire the best assistant coaches he could find, and he did a masterful job. The GM got his new coach a new offensive line through free agency and had a terrific draft. The coach changed the culture, the player's became confident, the team gained some momentum, and it was off to the races. Many of the Bears stars are young and improving.

For example, the Bears lost to the Lions by thirty one points 15 weeks ago and this week they only lost by three.

We can't forget about coach Ben Johnson. He's a wonderful coach and it's hard to remember that this is the first year as a head coach in the NFL. The young players and the coach should continue to grow together and the areas that need improvement (like the pass rush) can be addressed after the playoffs.

The playoffs. The Bears opening opponent is the Green Bay Packers who they will be playing for the third time in six weeks. The game will be in Chicago and will probably be the biggest sporting event the city has seen in years.

If the Bears beat the Packers, they've earned the right to play at home the next week too. Clear your schedule, fasten your seatbelts, and get ready to enjoy some great football Saturday night at 7:00.

Robert Kiyosaki said, "Don't let the fear of losing be greater than the excitement of winning."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

There is no friend as loyal as a book. *— Ernest Hemingway*

Indiana University football fans living dream season

BY STAN MADDUX

A LaPorte man has been an Indiana University football fan since before taken to his first football game at the Bloomington campus by his season ticket holding father.

John Howes said the sudden turnaround of the program into a national contender along with the blowout victory in the college football playoffs against Alabama feels surreal.

Howes said he never imagined the Hoosiers after decades of losing football "beating teams handily like Alabama. It's really quite unbelievable."

In comparison, Howes said the Hoosiers were "crushed" by Michigan in his first game at Memorial Stadium years ago as a teenager.

"It's definitely not like that now," he said.

Howes, an attorney like his father, Ralph, said he's even had thoughts about Indiana becoming the next "superpower" in college football, but struggles to believe that could actually happen given the team's mostly losing history.

LaPorte City Councilman Tim Franke said his voice was a little hoarse after cheering the Hoosiers on to their 38-3 victory on Jan. 1 over the Crimson Tide in the basement of his residence.

Franke, a longtime fan and Indiana University graduate, said he's still kind of pinching himself over the success the team has had the past two seasons.

"To play a team like Alabama and then absolutely destroy them was an amazing thing to see for sure," he said.

Former LaPorte Chamber of Commerce President Mike Seitz is another longtime Hoosiers football fan basking in what still seems like a dream.

"This is just fantastic," he said.

Seitz, who recently moved to Florida, is considering purchasing tickets to watch the Hoosiers play for the national title in Miami if the Hoosiers defeat the Oregon Ducks Jan. 9.

Indiana defeated Oregon during the regular season.

"It's amazing. If you don't believe in Indiana University football by now, I don't know what you're thinking," Seitz said.

Raiders rebound from losses in blowout victory at home

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders defeated Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School 49-21 at home Tuesday night in girls' high school basketball.

The Raiders (2-3) opened up an early seven-point lead that melted to two points late in the first quarter.

However, the Raiders took a six-point lead into the second quarter following two quick short buckets from sophomore Lila Lugbill.

The Raiders went on to score 22 of the next 26 points before halftime to pretty much lock up the game.

Raiders Head Coach Jason Alexander credited the run on his players executing better on offense and becoming more effective on defense.

"Once those two things started to coincide with each other I think we kind of took off," he said.

Other first half highlights on offense for the Raiders included sophomore Addison Lynch scoring six of the first eight points.

One of her early buckets came from driving in for a lay-up after stealing the ball at half court.

Junior Laney Strother also contributed by sinking an 18-foot jump shot after her passing to teammates resulted in several other buckets.

Peyton Swain, a sharp shooting junior, also drove in toward rim along the baseline for a lay-up against several defenders.

The Raiders leading 35 to 11 at halftime didn't score again until three minutes into the third quarter when junior Shyann Spaulding after grabbing an offensive rebound put the ball into the net from a short distance.

Junior Harper Bowman started the fourth quarter scoring for the Raiders by sinking a three-point shot.

Alexander said the team spent the holiday break working on getting better at handling pressure defenses, which were factors in each of the team's three losses.

He said ball handling while under pressure is the weakest link on the team showing improvement in that area of the game in their post-holiday season victory.

"We really handled their press well and I think that opened up a lot of fast break lay-ups for us," he said.

Alexander said he also liked how his players against Our Lady of the Lake found open shooters with their passing.

"We shared the ball really well tonight," he said.

Lynch led the Raiders with 12 points.

Bowman and Lugbill added seven points and six points respectively.

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Bison return to winning form in boys' basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team won their first game after the holiday break in a thriller at home Tuesday night.

Following several lead exchanges, the Bison (3-4) pulled away in the final minutes to defeat Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School 58-53.

New Buffalo Head Coach Nate Tripp said he believes his senior laden team struggling going into the game has taken the first step toward playing at the level displayed last season that ended with a loss in the District 4 finals.

He credited his players for bouncing back every time the Lakers rallied from behind to take the lead.

"We held our ground and we were tough. We came back," he said.

New Buffalo after taking a six-point lead ended the first quarter trailing by one point.

Tripp was very vocal in demanding his team play better defense before the start of the second quarter.

"Wake up," he said.

Tripp said the defense seemed to improve a bit after he switched from a zone to man to better guard against the Lakers outside shooting, which largely kept them in the game.

"I guess, for the most part, it worked," he said.

Key moments in the second quarter included senior center Brysun Perry nailing a 10-foot jump shot to recapture the lead for the Bison and sophomore guard Colten Lijewski quickly scoring twice to give his team a six-point advantage.

The lead melted to two points, though, going into halftime.

The Lakers began the third quarter by scoring six unanswered points to take a four-point lead, but the Bison jumped back out ahead on a three-point bucket from senior Trevor James and back-to-back lay-ups from Perry.

The game was tied mid-way through the fourth quarter until the Bison took the lead for good when James nailed another three-point shot with just over three minutes left to play.

The lead grew to seven points on another three-point shot from James and a free throw by senior Nick Haskins.

Perry led the Bison with 21 points while Lijewski, James and senior Lucas Forker combined scored 28 points.

Tripp said Perry had a lot of shots close to the rim because the Lakers often double teamed Forker, which left him wide open to catch passes for easy buckets.

"Perry was huge for us tonight," he said.

Tripp said hindering the play of his team has been lingering sicknesses to Forker and Tripp, who's also battling a lower back injury.

"We'll get those guys rounded into shape. We're going to be tough," he said.

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OBITUARIES

Scott Keith MacGregor

1956-20205

Scott Keith MacGregor, 69, of Three Oaks, passed away, Sunday, December 14, 2025.

His life began June 12, 1956 in Michigan City, Indiana , the oldest of two children born to Douglas and Blanch MacGregor. He married Anne Stevenson in the late seventies in New Buffalo.

Scott was an avid motorcyclist; always enjoying a Sunday ride. He was an animal lover. Scott enjoyed woodworking and using his hands. He was a loving father and grandfather.

Scott will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by three sons, Andrew (Kristi) MacGregor of Niles, Camden (Jenny) MacGregor of Chesapeake, Virginia, and John MacGregor of Buchanan, three grandchildren, Reagan, Ellie, and Hayden, one sister, Stacey MacGregor of Sawyer, one nephews Ryan (Tiffany) Beck of Three Oaks, three nieces Sian (Randy) Deaton of Three Oaks, Kate Beck of Niles, and Kipp Beck of New Buffalo.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

A Day in the Life

THINKING ABOUT LIFE...

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

I know about life now; A boldly naive statement if there ever was one! But that statement is prompted by my incredible current feeling of contentment and satisfaction. Have I accomplished some worldly deed to deserve making that kind of statement? Not that I can ascertain ! For the first time in my troubled and anxious life I have arrived at peace, which for my age with one foot in the grave and other serious health issues, I am happy. I cannot any longer drive a car, I have Sleep Apnea, am diabetic, crippled and confined to using a walker, and overweight with a long list of encumbrances. It's a curiosity or revelation that I can't explain or justify in any way.

Maybe it's due to the fact that I am naturally dumb and cannot fathom the obvious? I wake every day looking forward to my simplistic life. Perhaps it's due to my simplistic revelation that I suffer from only little anxieties instead of the much larger ones all of my life. Making a living and trying always to make a statement with my lifestyle and attempts to be a relevant father figure to a needy six kids . Apparently I still have some of that ambitious sense left since I feel guilty even for proclaiming my new peace of mind. (That is more like my old self).

When I wake in the morning I am not anxious or with any desire to leap up and accomplish something for the day or month or year. I have little or no ambition to prove anything to myself or to the world. Isn't it strange that I have lost all, or most of my ambition to prove myself to the world?

I had a dinner party the other night for example, It was a small group (for me) and we had a nice time in a low key way about where we are all at peace recalling some of our ambitious projects and programs of the past. An example being the subject and our project from the recent past being "The Umbrellas of Harbert" program which we

spent days and weeks putting together and promoting for every summer. It was a gratifying project and gathered worldwide notoriety for which we were all grateful and impressed but when we stopped the project it was with little regret in spite of the absence of feeling we were accomplishing extraordinary goals. There were some that were more involved than others, Rich and Eileen Kochany were two that made exceptional contributions for the launching and maintaining much of the effort for keeping the program together for a successful community event. We discussed it the other night and it was a fun time recalling that project, but I think we are all grateful for its quiet demise. The Kohanny's now travel extensively all over the world.

Lorraine and Terry Hanover were central to the Umbrellas of Harbert event as it was held at their previous store location. They have reduced much of their community obligations (except for their New Troy Project and that will follow them to their grave, I suspect).

Kay Hoersch has ceased traveling the world in her evangelistic pursuit for her church affiliations after decades. She is semi-retired and enjoys her new lake house in Three Oaks .

Debbie Singer retired from being the most fashionable pharmacist owner ever. While her long time partner Gary Pierczora works for a German firm and volunteers as Private Care- Giver for the elderly in his spare time, and travels with Debbie's Boat Oaring Club all over the world, it's Paris this spring!. They are all committed to a new, more relaxed life that I realized at dinner.

I also now have the best Caregiver known to man. She does what no one else could do from helping me out of a chair, hoisting my walker and me into her truck and cooking meals with the best presentation you could imagine.. She for example shovels the snow and ice from my walkways and parking lot even though I don't have a car. She does all of her projects to perfection and she is always looking for more things to do that no one else would think about. I pulled the silver plate serving pieces out of the display. and set them in the kitchen for me to polish. I came out in the night for a snack and there was all of the silver all polished. I was sleeping at my desk and woke up to fresh flowers on my desk. She not only washes my clothes but irons them too. She goes to the grocery and keeps track of what I need and then calls home to see if I thought of anything else. She knows that I like York mint patties and Good and Plenty candies and keeps me supplied. She helps me to get dressed especially on Sunday mornings, and she makes my Deviled Eggs that I take to church every Sunday. I didn't ask her to do that either. She makes my drinks of coffee, milk, and water without prompting. She is in short a "Saint" that I have been blessed with. She even picks up and replaces the Piddle Pads for Roscoe, my dog, as well as walking him every day and bathing him. She is in short as I always say: She is my Saint" I love her!

That's the story of our aging group and at my dinner party this past week, and possibly why I am feeling content to the extent that I am? It seems like it's a growing condition, or I am a little nuts? We shall see if it lasts, or not. So far, so good!

HOROSCOPE

JANUARY 8-14, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

It is important to realize that you are part of a team when it comes to accomplishing big projects and creating future stability. So, if you have big projects to complete or are making career moves, reach out to family for advice and support. Know that there are a lot of people watching and waiting to help you.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

There is a lot of stellar energy bringing you many opportunities to grow and expand. Whether it is taking a class and advancing your education or taking a trip to some ancient monolith and expanding your understanding of some hidden knowledge, go for it. Open your mind and get excited about something.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Teamwork and group participation is highlighted this week. This is the time to get more committed to a group project or a more involved in helping someone. You will provide integral support and insight when you are committed to being of service. This is the time to do charitable work from behind the scene.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

It is important for you to realize that you are not operating alone. There is a large stellar force of energy pushing you to open the door to a new partnership or to reconfigure your current relationship. Use this energy to its fullest by getting more involved in one on one discussions and collaborating with someone.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

There is a decisive push from the universe this week to get things cleaned up and organized. This isn't just about getting things decluttered, it's about making your space work for you. Whether it is actually redesigning your space or weeding out negative influences get your physical space and lifestyle in order.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Put your energy into completing things you will be proud of. This is the time to let go of what other people define as success and put your energy into the things that make you feel fulfilled. There is a lot of constructive power flowing to you now and the best use of it is to keep moving forward with your own projects.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

The energy coming your way this week is all about reconnecting with your roots and understanding the family dynamics that are shaping your current situation or station in life. This isn't a blame game. It is about identifying things that keep you rooted in the past and accepting them. There is good and bad here.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

This is the time to get more involved with the community and people outside of the home. Go to more community events. Check out your local attractions and talk to people about the history of your area. You are likely to uncover some unusual connections between you and someone from the past.

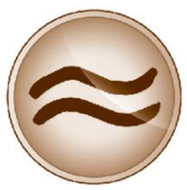
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

There is an abundance of energy in the financial sector of your life now. This is the time to prepare the soil for those financial energies to sprout and mature. Become more frugal and hardworking now, and in the future you will have an abundance of riches ready to harvest.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

The energy coming your way this week will push you to stand firm, stick up for yourself or promote your business ideas. This is the time to speak your truth so that you will create a firm base to build your career or future stability on. Set the record straight from the start and the rest will fall neatly into place.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



There is a definite push from the stars to go deeper into something, to think about things more and to take the time that is necessary in order to figure it out. This is not the time to rush into anything or get emotionally charged before you have had the time to process and investigate situations thoroughly.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Put more effort into developing your own creative and technical skills this week as the energy radiating from the stars is all about networking and connecting to a larger audience. Harness this energy by opening the door to studies that open your mind to higher manifesting potentials and the use of new technology.

The greatest of follies is to sacrifice health for any other kind of happiness. — *Arthur Schopenhauer*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		5			7			
	6	8				1		
							4	6
	4						5	
1						8		
	5				8			
		4	6		2			1
	1			9				5
6				4		9		

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

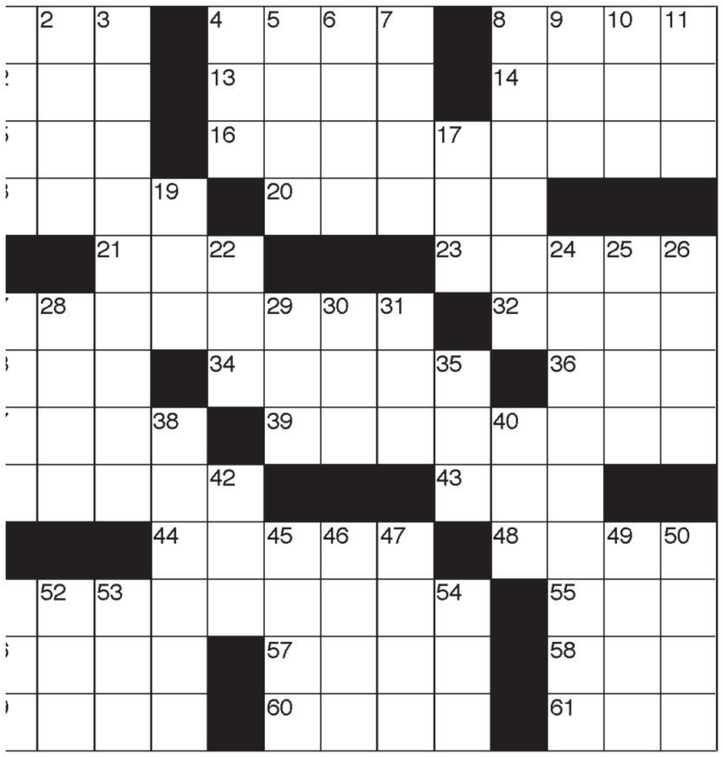
Distress signal
Student's pony
Build a ceiling
Amer. Bar Assn. (abbr.)
Recent (suf.)
Berne's river
Own (Scot.)
Kob
Flavor
Roast (Fr.)
Flap
Auspices
Chambered mollusk
Forbidden
Mountain on Crete
Dominion
Fr. month
Sleep (pref.)
Wind screen
Indo-Eur.
Pinch
"The Bartered Bride" character
Cross (abbr.)
Grouse's courtship area
Inlet
Corrode
Half a quarter
Man (2 words)
Dayak people
Outfit
Mountain summit (Ital.)
Event
A (Ger.)
Andes grass
River into the North Sea
Television channel
Six (Sp.)
Ancient Per. province
Vanity

DOWN

1 Hall (Ger.)
2 Fetish
3 Refuge
4 Counterclockwise (abbr.)
5 Hind
6 Within
7 Vegetable
8 Pronghorn
9 Water (Fr.)
10 Internat'l Red
27 Caravel of Columbus
28 City in Judah
29 Fat (pref.)
30 Caribbean lizard
31 Single lens reflex (abbr.
35 Belonging to (suf.)
38 Field (Lat.)
40 Custer's hors
42 Never (Ger.)
45 Scot. knife
46 Bank
47 Coptic clergyman
49 Chin. dynasty
50 Year (Lat.)
51 Possessive pronoun
52 Card
53 Greek letter
54 Precious stor

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZL

O	G	E	E	■	S	D	O	■	E	R	I	
S	A	C	K	■	I	O	D	■	N	E	B	
T	O	O	E	A	R	L	Y	■	A	L	I	
E	L	L	■	T	E	E	S	T	■	I	S	
■	■	■	M	E	N	■	S	A	Y	A	■	■
M	A	V	I	S	■	D	E	T	E	N	T	
A	R	I	L	■	D	E	Y	■	A	C	A	
I	N	S	P	I	R	E	■	S	T	E	E	
■	■	C	A	B	A	■	R	A	S	■	■	
A	B	E	■	O	F	F	A	L	■	G	U	
A	A	R	E	■	T	A	P	A	C	O	L	
R	A	A	D	■	E	L	I	■	A	R	N	
E	L	L	E	■	E	L	D	■	D	Y	A	



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What's Happening, Hillary?

YOUR CURATED GUIDE TO THE BEST IN NEW BUFFALO, AND BEYOND!

JANUARY 9. FRIDAY: Sound Cleanse and Chakra Balancing Reiki Reset at Dancing Feet Yoga 6:30 pm [Tickets]

JANUARY 10, SATURDAY: Edible Evergreens Workshop at Fernwood Botanical Garden 1 pm [Tickets]

JANUARY 10, SATURDAY: Murder Mystery Dinner at Lakeside Inn 7:30 pm [Tickets]

JANUARY 10, SATURDAY: Gather & Community Market at New Troy Community Center 9 am-2 pm [FREE]

JANUARY 16, FRIDAY: Theme Night -Taylor's Version at Peat's Cider Social 4 - 10pm https://www.peatscider.com/events

JANUARY 17, SATURDAY: Punch & Judy Puppy Show at The Bridgman Public Library Saturday 1 pm [FREE, Registration]

JANUARY 17, SATURDAY: Transformational Breathwork & Sound Bath at Skybird Yoga 5 pm [Registration]

JANUARY 17, SATURDAY: Polka Party at Burn 'Em Brewing 7-9 pm [FREE]

JANUARY 18, SUNDAY: Live Music with Chris Burch at Dablon 3-5 pm [FREE]

JANUARY 21, WEDNESDAY: Wine Education Wednesday: Be A Winemaker for a Night at Local Pour 7 pm [Registration]

JANUARY 22, THURSDAY: Italian Wine Dinner Series: Tuscany at Emma Hearth 5:30 pm [Tickets]

JANUARY 24, SATURDAY: Tree of Life Macramé Workshop at Sandpiper Bridgman 12 pm [Tickets]

JANUARY 24, SATURDAY: Fairy Tea Party at Baroda Soda 2 pm [Tickets]

JANUARY 24, SATURDAY: Harbor Country Film Group presents "Life is Beautiful" at New Buffalo Public Library at 1 pm [FREE]

JANUARY 24, SATURDAY: Winter Tree ID Hike with Chikaming Open Lands at Myron Perlman Nature Preserve 1 pm [FREE]

JANUARY 24, SATURDAY: Burns Night - A Supper of Celebration 7 pm [Reservation]

JANUARY 24, SATURDAY: The Debutants presented by Acorn Anywhere at Commune Market 8 pm [Tickets]

JANUARY 29, THURSDAY: PostBoy with Avec Abandon Ship Dinner Series [Reservation]

JANUARY 30, FRIDAY: St. Joseph 2026 Chili Tour 5-8 pm www.stjoetoday.com/events/2026-chili-tour

JANUARY 31, SATURDAY: Long Johns On Winter Warmer Celebration at Burn 'Em Brewing 1-6 pm [Tickets]

JANUARY 31, SATURDAY: Hairball at Silver Creek Events Center 9 pm [Tickets]

JANUARY 31, SATURDAY: Songwriters-in-the-Round presented by Acorn Anywhere at Vicker's Theater [Tickets]

WEEKLY WINTER EVENTS

TUESDAYS: Bingo at Union Pier Social, Pokeman Card League at Bridgman Library
WEDNESDAYS: Bocce at Sonny D's
THURSDAYS: Trivia at SideYard, Trivia at Union Pier Social, Trivia at River St. Joe, Music Box Films Tasting Room Movie Nights at Dablon, Throwback Thursdays at The Vicker's, Brush + Bloom Plant Bingo at Various Winery Locations, Brews & Bingo at Round Barn Brewery & Public House, Chess Club at New Buffalo Library
FRIDAYS: LEGO Club for Kids at New Buffalo Library, Live Music at Sonny D's
SATURDAYS: Sippin' Strings at Round Barn Estate, Live Music at Sonny D's
SUNDAYS: Trivia at Round Barn Public House, Live Music at Shady Creek Winery

Do you have an event you'd like to share? Send to info@NewBuffaloTimes.com with HILLARY in the subject line, and see if you make it into the monthly events.

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

The Last Inning

As promised, this is my final column about The Entertainment Industry Softball League, which, while it had nothing to do with writing, was still a welcome diversion for those of us who labored in DIC Entertainment's writer's wing.

For our final game we were up against arch rivals Warner Bros. So far, DIC was 12-0. Warner Bros. was11-1, their only loss to us at the start of the season. If we won tonight we'd be the champs. If Warner Bros. won we'd both finish 12-1 and there'd be a playoff game.

I took the mound, bleachers packed with cheering fans. Bobby Logan, Mike 'Stoke' Stokey, Linda Levine and Mike Cowan were in the infield, Lori behind home plate. I struck out the first three Warner Bros. players, DIC fans in a frenzy.

We came to bat in the bottom half of the inning to see Warner Bros. had a monster of a dude pitching. He burned in the ball at a fast-pitch speed – something we haven't seen before. He duplicated my feat, striking out our first three players.

It's gonna be a long night...

We held a razor thin one-run lead as I took to the mound for the final inning. The meat of Warner Bros' line-up was coming up. Warner Bros' first batter drove my first pitch into deep left for a double. I struck out the next batter to the cheers of the infield and DIC fans. Stoke called out, "One down; two to go, Jacky!" I nodded, forcing a smile. The next batter drilled my third pitch into right field. A great throw from right held him at first, but the other runner wound up on third base.

Warner Bros.' brutish clean-up batter came to the plate. If he connected the game could be over or, at the very least, the runner on third would score, tying up the game. He pounded the plate with his bat and I hurled a pitch at him. He connected solidly, the ball sailing up high toward the gap between first and second, where our second base player, Linda Levin, was stationed. Warner Bros. fans rose to their feet, cheering in anticipation, DIC fans slumping.

All eyes turned to Linda as she ran in what seemed to be slow motion. She leaped impossibly high, stretched her arm as far as it would go over her head, and above the Warner Bros.' fans cheers we heard the heavy thump! as the ball landed firmly in her glove.

Linda fell back to earth, down to one knee. She turned to see the Warner Bros. player at first base running toward her, eyes going wide as he realized she'd snagged the line drive. In desperation, he spun and started scrambling back toward first base.

Still on one knee, Linda dug into her mitt, pulled the ball from it, mustered all her strength and rocketed the softball toward first base, past the runner, right into Mike Cowan's waiting glove. The Warner Bros.' player was doubled off. The game was over.

For long seconds everyone was silent, none believing what they'd seen. Then the DIC fans and players screamed, shouted and cheered, rejoicing, all converging on Linda. Bobby, Stoke, Mike Cowan and I grabbed Linda and hoisted her up onto our shoulders, players and fans leaping up and down all around us.

The season was over and we were undefeated – a perfect 13 and 0 season. It was a win for the ages and I was there. We were champions...

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

KEEPING YOUR BALANCE AGAINST DANGEROUS FALLS

Any fall can be dangerous, but as we get older, falls can be fatal. Older adults are increasingly dying from unintentional falls.

Our balance or lack thereof, can gradually creep in until it is too late. All of us can begin to lose our balance over time. Instead of doing something about it early, we learn to adapt. We hold on to things, we walk slower, we quit doing things that we use to do that took good balance. If you haven't yet had a serious fall, you have certainly caught yourself by grabbing a chair, or catching yourself just before you go down. As you age, one fall can change everything. It is easy to twist an ankle, break a hip, lead to months of rehab and take away all of your independence - if not worse.

Rather than having your balance stripped away from you, consider these important things that you can do.

Keep a path that you travel in your home regularly, totally clear of furniture, boxes, storage or piles. Anything that is in this path can be a source of injury or falling. In a bathroom, handrails can be important for tubs and showers.

The type of shoes that you wear are top priority forkeeping your balance. The cute little flip flops or mulesthat you once wore running around can be a fast track to your grave today. Choosing the right footwear is important. We need support as well as comfort. Well-fitting shoes that don't slip or slide. A firm sole with real grip. A sold sole with good support is important. As we age, our muscles and tendons lose strength. Our arches change and the fat pads that gave us balance has shrunk. Wearing just your socks in your home can also be dangerous. They are slippery against stairs, wooden or tile floors. A good pair of well-fitting house slippers are important to change into when you are home.

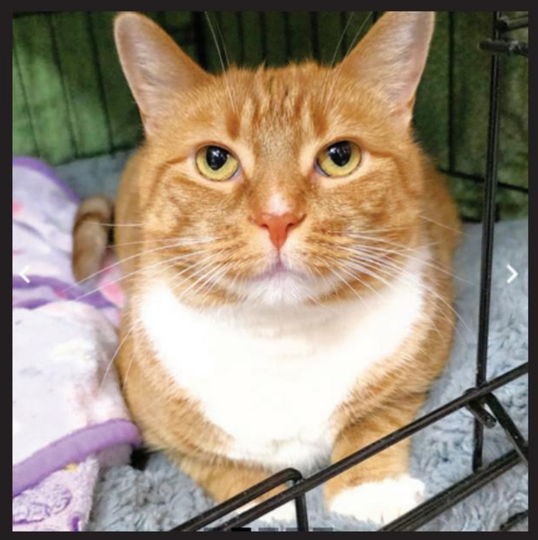
Some people are on medications that can cause imbalance. Make sure that your doctor is aware of your dosages. There can be interactions between one medicine and another. Assessing your medication is important for your overall balance. Most concerning are blood pressure medications, sleep aids and anti-depression medications. These alone can have side effects. Even over the counter medications like cold remedies and allergy pills can be a culprit. They can cause dizziness, drowsiness or disorientation.

Walking steady and secure is what we want in our aging bodies. Keeping our independence is important. To insure this, we need a healthy diet high in fruits and vegetables,good fiber and hydration, as well as regular exercise to keeping your muscles toned and strong. Even chair exercises can strengthen your core, legs and feet.

The older we get, the more we start thinking about losing our independence. It is not too early to prepare and think about the safety that is necessary for you as you age and can begin to lose balance. Aging healthy is a goal we should all have.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK



SALLY

Sally is a gorgeous orange tabby girl and is looking for a quiet, introverted, nice person to adopt her because she is a quiet, introverted, nice cat but sure has a great personality. She is spayed, almost four-years old, and weighs almost eight pounds. Sally has is used to living with other cats but would prefer a quiet household, although she is chatty cat. Sally likes her surroundings to be calm and relaxed, but sometimes likes to spend her time with people and other times is content to hang on her own. She's what we call an actively independent gal! Make Sally part of your home today.

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LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

4	3	5	1	6	7	2	9	8
9	6	8	2	5	4	1	3	7
7	2	1	3	8	9	5	4	6
8	4	2	9	1	6	7	5	3
1	7	6	4	3	5	8	2	9
3	5	9	7	2	8	6	1	4
5	9	4	6	7	2	3	8	1
2	1	7	8	9	3	4	6	5
6	8	3	5	4	1	9	7	2

S	O	S	■	C	R	I	B	■	C	E	I	L
A	B	A	■	C	E	N	E	■	A	A	R	E
A	I	N	■	W	A	T	E	R	B	U	C	K
L	A	C	E	■	R	O	T	I	R	■	■	■
■	■	T	A	B	■	■	■	A	E	G	I	S
N	A	U	T	I	L	U	S	■	T	A	B	U
I	D	A	■	T	I	T	L	E	■	M	A	I
N	A	R	C	■	P	A	R	A	V	E	N	T
A	R	Y	A	N	■	■	■	N	I	P	■	■
■	■	■	M	I	S	H	A	■	C	I	M	A
H	A	P	P	E	N	I	N	G	■	E	I	N
I	C	H	U	■	E	L	B	E	■	C	N	N
S	E	I	S	■	E	L	A	M	■	E	G	O

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